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Friday, 17 April 2009, 10:42

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MOSCOW 000980  
SIPDIS

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TAGS PGOV, PREL, PHUM, PINR, KCOR, KDEM, ECON, ETRD, RS  
SUBJECT: C-RE8-02308 LUZHKOVA'S FOREIGN POLICY: PERSONAL  
MOTIVES CLOAKED IN NATIONALISM

Classified By: Acting DCM Alice Wells. Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d).  
11. (SBU) Summary: The Moscow City government has cultivated its influence in far-flung Russian regions as well as in foreign countries, ostens

12. (SBU) The Moscow City government, personified by Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, maintains influence in many diverse Russian regions far from the capi  
Moscow City Government Power and Budget

13. (C) The city of Moscow, one of 83 geopolitical units that comprise the Russian Federation, is entitled under the Russian Constitution to cc  
14. (C) According to Lebedev, there are more than 160 international agreements in effect between Moscow and foreign cities and countries. Moscc  
Luzhkov Throws His Weight Around in Ukraine and the Baltics

15. (C) The Russian language plays an important role in Ukraine, while Russian citizenship is a key issue in the Baltics. According to Lebedev,  
16. (C) Ukrainian President Yushchenko plays a careful game with Russia for domestic and foreign audiences, experts have noted, but drew a clea  
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owns approximately 150 properties in the Crimea, including spas and recreation centers on the Black Sea. Lebedev repeated for us Luzhkov's long  
17. (C) Lebedev told us that in 2008, the Moscow City government invested in a Latvian auto plant, Amo Plant, as a means of ensuring there woul  
Luzhkov's Penchant for Separatist Regions

18. (C) Luzhkov has long been interested in separatist regions of neighboring countries, including South Ossetia and Abkhazia in Georgia, and T  
Dabbling in Other Countries

19. (C) Luzhkov also has directed that the Moscow City government increase investment in Uzbekistan, Kosovo, Bulgaria and Israel. According to  
What's in it for Luzhkov and the Kremlin?

10. (C) When it comes to foreign business dealings, Luzhkov sets his own agenda, not the Kremlin, though he is careful not to contravene Kreml  
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which he directs private businesses to undertake are clearly political, but also motivated by personal financial interests, especially when the